

Reply to Office Action of November 27, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:

a cabinet;

a tub to hold water provided in the cabinet;

a drum rotatably installed in the tub to hold laundry;

a cabinet having the tub and drum inside;

a control panel coupled to the cabinet to have a control unit inside, wherein the control panel forms a receiving space with a top plate of the cabinet;

a filter case having configured to receive a noise filter inside, the noise filter preventing the control signals carried on the wires 80 from interfering with other signals or from attenuating therein and to be installed in the receiving space; and

a filter case coupling assembly sliding on the cabinet and coupling configured to slidably couple the filter case to the top panel of the cabinet.

6-7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 75, wherein the filter case coupling assembly ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a pair of coupling protrusions protruding in a lateral direction from opposite lower side edges of ~~both sides of~~ the filter case, ~~respectively~~; and

a corresponding pair of guide rails ~~formed at~~ provided on an upper surface of the top plate ~~to guide the~~, wherein the pair of coupling protrusions ~~to slide~~ are configured to be slidably inserted therein for coupling into the pair of guide rails so as to slidably couple the filter case to the top plate.

9. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 75, wherein the filter case coupling assembly ~~comprising~~ comprises:

at least one coupling protrusion protruding from a bottom portion of the filter case; and

at least one corresponding guide rail ~~formed at~~ provided on an upper surface of the top plate ~~to guide the~~, wherein the at least one coupling protrusion ~~to slide~~ is configured to be slidably inserted therein for coupling into the at least one guide rail so as to slidably couple the filter case to the top plate.

10. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the coupling protrusion ~~comprising~~ comprises:

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a body ~~protruding portion that extends~~ downward from the bottom ~~portion~~ of the filter case; and

a pair of guide protrusions ~~protruding~~ extending outward in a lateral direction from opposite lower side edges of both sides of the body, respectively ~~portion~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a ~~front side of the~~ forward end of each guide rail is blocked so ~~that the coupling protrusion inserted as long as a predetermined distance is unable to move ahead~~ as to restrict forward movement of the coupling protrusion inserted therein.

12. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein a ~~front side of the~~ forward end of the at least one guide rail is blocked so ~~that the coupling protrusion inserted as long as a predetermined distance is unable to move ahead~~ as to restrict forward movement of the at least one coupling protrusion inserted therein.

13. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 75, wherein the control panel is coupled to a rear parts of the portion of an upper surface of the top plate.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a control unit installed in the receiving space and configured to control operation of the washing machine.

16. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein the noise filter is configured to prevent interference or attenuation of signals carried on wires leading to and from the control unit.

17. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:
a coupling boss extending rearwards from an upper surface of the filter case; and
a back panel configured to be coupled to a rear portion of the control panel so as to enclose the receiving space formed by the control panel and the top plate of the cabinet, wherein the back panel includes a coupling hole configured to receive the coupling boss when the filter case is coupled to the top plate and the back panel is coupled to the control panel.

18. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pair of guide protrusions are configured to be slidably inserted into the at least one guide rail.

19. (New) A washing machine, comprising:
a cabinet;
a tub provided in the cabinet;

a drum rotatably coupled to the tub;

a control panel coupled to the cabinet so as to form a receiving space with the cabinet;

a filter case configured to be installed in the receiving space, wherein the filter case comprises at least one coupling protrusion extending outward from and laterally along an outer surface of the filter case; and

a coupling assembly comprising at least one guide rail provided on a surface of the cabinet and configured to slidably receive the at least one coupling protrusion to thereby mount the filter case in the receiving space.

20. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein the at least one coupling protrusion extends outward from and laterally along a bottom surface of the filter case, and the at least one guide rail is provided at a corresponding position on a top plate of the cabinet.

21. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the at least one coupling protrusion comprises a pair of coupling protrusions extending outward from and laterally along opposite bottom side edges of the filter case.

22. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the at least one coupling protrusion comprises:

a body portion that extends outward from a central portion of a bottom surface of the filter case; and

a pair of guide protrusions extending outward from and laterally along opposite bottom side edges of the body.

23. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein a forward end of the at least one guide rail is blocked so as to restrict forward movement of the at least one coupling protrusion inserted therein.

24. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a control unit installed in the receiving space and configured to control operation of the washing machine, and a noise filter provided in the filter case and configured to prevent interference or attenuation of signals carried on wires leading to and from the control unit.

25. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
a coupling boss extending rearwards from an upper surface of the filter case; and
a back panel configured to be coupled to a rear portion of the control panel so as to enclose the receiving space formed by the control panel and the cabinet, wherein the back

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panel includes a coupling hole configured to receive the coupling boss when the filter case is coupled to the cabinet and the back panel is coupled to the control panel.